

REMARKS

Claims 14, 15, 21-25, 27, 28, 34, 35, 37, 38, and 41-43 are pending. Claims 14, 21-24, 34, 37, 38, and 41-43 have been amended. Claims 1-13, 16-20, 29-33, 36, 39-40, and 44-46 have been cancelled. Claim 26 has been previously cancelled. No new matter has been introduced. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

In the May 10, 2004 Final Office Action, the Examiner allowed claims 25, 27, and 28. The Examiner rejected claims 1-20, 22-24, 29-36, 39, 40, 43, and 44 under 35 U.S.C. §102 (e) as being anticipated by Hoffman et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,094,435 (hereinafter the Hoffman reference). Claims 1-13, 16-20, 29-33, 36, 39-40, and 44-46 have been cancelled.

The Examiner objected to claims 21, 37, 38, 41, and 42 as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but indicated that such claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. By this amendment, the Applicant has rewritten in independent form, and slightly amended for antecedent basis reasons, claims 21, 37, and 41 in accordance with the Examiner's remarks. Claims 38 and 42, also slightly amended for antecedent basis reasons, continue to depend from independent claims 37 and 41, respectively.

The Applicant believes rewritten independent claims 21, 37, and 41, and dependent claims 38 and 42 are in condition for allowance. In addition, claims 14 and 22-24, claim 34, and claim 43 have been amended to depend from independent claims

21, 37, and 41, respectively. Therefore, Applicant believes amended claims 14 and 22-24, claim 34, and claim 43 are in condition for allowance.

Applicant believes that the foregoing amendment and remarks place the application in condition for allowance, and a favorable action is respectfully requested.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles telephone number (213) 488-7100 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance should the examiner believe that such a telephone conference would advance prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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